Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) An isolated HCV self-replicating polynucleotide comprising:

(a) a 5'-Non Translated Region;

(b) a HCV polynucleotide encoding for an HCV polyprotein that comprises: HCV NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A, and NS5B polypeptides, which contains an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: G(2042)C or G(2042)R, wherein the amino acid is numerated from the beginning of the coding region of I377/NS2-3' construct (EMBL genebank accession number No. AJ 242651); and

(c) a 3'-Non Translated Region.

10. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1148)G, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, L(1701)F, I(1984)V, T(1993)A, S(2404)P, L(2155)P, P(2166)L, and M(2992)T.

11. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 10, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: E(1202)G.

12. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising an amino acid substitution commonly designated as: K(1691)R.

13. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, further comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: commonly designated as R(1135)K, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, T(1993)A, and P(2166)L.

14. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: E(1202)G, I(1984)V, G(2042)C, and M(2992)T.

15. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 11 wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: S(1148)G, E(1202)G, L(1701)F, G(2042)R, and S(2404)P.

16. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is a DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.

17. (New) The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 9, wherein said polynucleotide is an RNA molecule encoded by a DNA selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 25.